



Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

2300 Lake Elmo Drive
Billings, MT 59105

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NOTICE OF DECISION

August 7, 2000

TO: Environmental Quality Council
Director's Office, Dept. of Environmental Quality
Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Director's Office
Parks Division
Fisheries Division
Wildlife Division

Lands Section
Design & Construction
Legal Unit
Regional Supervisors

Montana Historical Society, State Preservation Office
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council
Montana Wildlife Federation
Montana State Library
George Ochenski
Montana Environmental Information Center
Wayne Hirst, Montana State Parks Foundation
Representative Bob Raney
County Commissioners
Other Local Interested People or Groups

Ladies and Gentlemen:

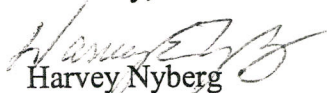
A Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared for construction of a raft slide structure at **Fireman's Point Fishing Access Site** on the Stillwater River near Columbus, Montana. The draft EA was circulated for 20 days and legal notices were published on Montana's electronic bulletin board.

The department has decided to precede with the project as described in the Environmental Assessment.

We received two comments in writing supporting the project including the Stillwater County Sheriff. A county floodplain permit and DEQ 3A Permit have been obtained with an Army Corps of Engineers 404 permit pending. Two telephone comments were received from commercial floaters as to the time period for construction as well as offering construction assistance. We will hold off until low water levels make floating unfeasible. This will be the optimal time for minimizing streambank disturbance as well. We will aim for an October 15 completion date. A call from a Stillwater County News reporter was supportive of the project and an article calling for volunteer help will result.

This project is subject to appeal, which must be submitted to the FWP Director in writing, and postmarked within 30 days of the date on this decision notice. The appeal must specifically describe the basis for the appeal, explain how the appellant has previously commented to the department or participated in the decision-making process, and lay out how FWP might address the concerns in the appeal. If you have questions regarding this decision notice, please contact me at 247-2951.

Sincerely,


Harvey Nyberg
Regional Supervisor

